

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 801

By West

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bob Baldrige on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baldrige is one such estimable person who served with distinction for forty years with Tennessee Secondary School Athletics Association (TSSAA); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldrige took a much deserved retirement on October 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baldrige graduated from Belmont University in 1968 and later earned a master's degree in Educational Administration from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, since his initial employment with TSSAA in 1967, Mr. Baldrige has diligently carried out his duties, assisting in the development of the classification system and directing the football playoffs since their inception in 1969; and

WHEREAS, prominently laboring on behalf of the best interests of the State's athletes, Mr. Baldrige represented TSSAA before numerous state and federal government bodies; and

WHEREAS, his forty years of dedicated service to TSSAA mark a milestone that only two others have reached in the nation's history of high school state associations; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baldrige is an active and important part of his community and his profession, as demonstrated by his long record of leadership in numerous worthy organizations, including nine years as Chairman of the National Federation's National Records Committee, an institution which he helped found; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldrige further served the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a member of the Volleyball Rules Committee and many other panels and as a frequent speaker at the National Federation's annual conference; and

WHEREAS, his admirable leadership abilities also are evinced by his thirty-five years of membership in the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, for which he served variously as Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and member of the board; and

WHEREAS, through his sedulous efforts to organize and administer annual fundraising and awards banquets, efforts which earned him an "Outstanding Service" award, Bob Baldridge assisted the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame accomplish its goals by helping to raise \$3.2 million worth of space allotment and money for the establishment of the first Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baldridge is a stalwart supporter of athletics not only in Tennessee but also across the country, and he expertly served as General Manager for the 1974 World Series of Basketball between the United States and Russia; and

WHEREAS, Bob Baldridge's lifelong commitment to all levels of high school athletics, along with the high regard he enjoyed amongst his peers, garnered him the illustrious NFHS Citation Award on July 7, 2000; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career in which he left an indelible impression on high school athletics in Tennessee, Mr. Baldridge has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we applaud Bob Baldridge for his four decades of service to the TSSAA and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.